

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 405 JOBS AND \$30 MILLION INVESTMENT FOR N.C. *GDATP RELOCATING HEADQUARTERS TO CHARLOTTE, BENEFITS ENTIRE STATE*

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley announced today that General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products, Inc. (GDATP) is relocating their headquarters and a light manufacturing operation to North Carolina, a move that will create 405 jobs with a \$30 million investment. GDATP, which designs, develops and manufactures aerospace and defense products, is the third recipient of the new state job development investment grant (JDIG) program.

“General Dynamics is a well-established, world-class company that is bringing further investments to our state and much needed high-paying jobs for North Carolina’s people,” said Easley. “To be able to announce the move of two first-rate companies like General Dynamics and R.H. Donnelly, in just one week, demonstrates North Carolina’s ability to compete in the global economy.

“I have had good conversations with their president, Linda Hudson, and I am confident that General Dynamics will be a good corporate citizen. I am pleased to welcome them to North Carolina.

“Attracting quality military industries is part of our economic development strategy. It is important that these corporations are able to interface with military personnel who will be using the systems that they build. This interaction is important in producing a quality product. North Carolina, the most military friendly state in the nation, is an ideal location.”

GDATP, a unit of General Dynamics Corporation, is moving their headquarters from Burlington, Vermont to the Charlotte/Mecklenburg area in September 2003 and will be fully operational by fall 2004. GDATP will also be establishing a light manufacturing operations in the Charlotte/Mecklenburg area in 2004. Estimated salaries for the positions will average more than \$70,000 a year. Charlotte was selected from among 10 cities considered by GDATP. The company employs more than 2,500 people in eight other locations.

“We were very impressed with Governor Easley’s and Secretary Jim Fain’s strong support of General Dynamics’ efforts to bring new jobs to Mecklenburg County,” said Linda Hudson, President of General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products. “We received remarkable cooperation from North Carolina state and local officials. The central location on the eastern seaboard, access to a major airport, the affordable cost of living and competitive business incentives were major factors in the decision to move our company headquarters and light manufacturing to the Charlotte area.”

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